

SENATE BILL 714
By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, relative to the issuance of national guard, memorial, and military license plates for motorcycles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§55-4-2__.

(a)

(1) Subject to the requirements of §55-4-201, the commissioner is authorized, and shall issue, a registration plate to an owner or lessee of a motorcycle who is otherwise eligible for a national guard plate enumerated in §55-4-202(c)(3), a memorial plate enumerated in §55-4-202(c)(4), or a military plate enumerated in §55-4-202(c)(5)(I); provided, however, such owner or lessee shall comply with the state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motorcycles and, except for an owner or lessee eligible for a memorial plate enumerated in §55-4-202(c)(4) and as provided in §55-4-228(d)(1)(A) for an enlisted national guard member, pay the regular fee applicable to motorcycles and the applicable fee specified in §55-4-203 prior to the issuance of any such plate.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing the issuance of an additional plate or plates free of charge to an eligible owner or lessee, whether for a motorcycle, authorized motor vehicle, or a combination of the two (2), above the total number of free plates authorized by §55-4-235 (former prisoners of war), §55-4-236 (recipients of the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or

the Air Force Cross), §55-4-237 (disabled veterans, including those disabled veterans who choose to receive the Purple Heart plate pursuant to §55-4-237(d)), or §55-4-228(d)(1)(A) (enlisted national guard members), as applicable.

(b) The motorcycle plates authorized by this section shall be substantially the same in design and configuration, allowing for variations due to size restrictions, as the regular motor vehicle registration plates authorized by §55-4-202(c)(5)(I)(i) for combat veterans, §55-4-202(c)(5)(I)(vi) for the Marine Corps League, §55-4-228 for national guard members, §55-4-231 for Silver Star and Bronze Star recipients, §55-4-235 for former prisoners of war, §55-4-236 for recipients of the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross, §55-4-237 for disabled veterans, §55-4-238 for Pearl Harbor survivors, §55-4-239 for holders of the Purple Heart, §55-4-242 for members of the United States reserve forces, § 55-4-243 for enemy evadees, §55-4-244 for active and retired members of the United States military and the United States military reserves in good standing, §55-4-253 for honorably discharged veterans, or §55-4-318 for handicapped veterans, as applicable.

(c) The funds produced from the sale and renewal of such motorcycle plates shall be allocated in accordance with §55-4-216 for the military plates enumerated in §55-4-202(c)(5)(I), and in accordance with §55-4-219 for the national guard plates enumerated in §55-4-202(c)(3) and the memorial plates enumerated in §55-4-202(c)(4), as applicable.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of safety is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 3. For purposes of rule-making, this act shall take effect upon July 1, 2005, becoming law, the public welfare requiring it for all other purposes.